

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, Claims 3, 6 and 10 have been amended, and Claims 7, 14 and 17 have been cancelled.

The Examiner objected to the drawings on the grounds that the reference number 12 was not mentioned in the description. The specification has been amended to describe the aluminum alloy rivet 12, so that it is believed that the objection to the drawings can be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 6, 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, on the grounds of indefiniteness, as reciting the limitation "corrosion inhibitor" in the third line of the claim with insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 3 and 6 have been amended to delete the phrase " and the corrosion inhibitor is strontium chromate." Claim 8 does not include the term objected to by the Examiner, and it is believed that the Examiner intended to refer instead to Claim 10, including this same phrase, which has now been deleted in Claim 10. Claim 12 also does not include the term objected to by the Examiner, and it is believed that the Examiner intended to refer instead to Claim 13, including this same phrase, which however does have antecedent basis in Claim 11, at lines 4-5. It is therefore believed that the rejection of Claims 3, 6, 8 and 12 on the grounds of indefiniteness can also now be withdrawn.

Claim 6 was objected to on the grounds of potential double patenting as being a substantial duplicate of Claim 3. Claim 6 has been corrected to depend from Claim 4,

whereas Claim 3 depends from Claim 1, so that it is believed that this objection can also be withdrawn.

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al. The Examiner indicated that in Keener '230 the fastener may be a rivet that is heat treated to increase its shear strength, as described in Keener '230 beginning at column 4, lines 55. This section of Keener '230 discloses that after the aluminum alloy article is solution treated/annealed, it may be further processed to increase its shear strength. However, the present invention relates to a method of applying and curing a coating to already heat treated aluminum alloy rivets, whereas Keener '230 only discloses coating an aluminum alloy article that has not been heat treated, and then heating the coated articles to both cure the coating and heat treat the aluminum alloy article. At column 1, lines 59-64, and column 2, lines 64-67, for example, Keener '230 teaches away from curing a coating on an already heat treated aluminum alloy article because the curing treatment can adversely affect the strength of the fastener.

To clarify this distinction of the invention over Keener '230, the claims have been amended to note the various steps of the claimed method involve "heat treated rivets," and specifically, that the steps of applying a coating and curing the coating involve already heat treated rivets.

The Examiner acknowledged that Keener '230 does not explicitly teach the coating should be cured under the claimed conditions, but indicated that Keener '230 teaches that the rivet and applied coating may be heated together to a suitable temperature in order to

achieve heat aging and curing in a single step. To the contrary, Keener '230 teaches that the curing treatment and heat treatment heating should be carried out at a standard elevated curing temperature of about 400°F, such as at column 6, lines 61-63, and the present invention does not involve curing conditions described in Keener '230 that result in heat aging and curing in a single step, but rather involves curing at a much lower temperature of a coating applied to already heat treated rivets.

Kishikawa et al. was cited as teaching adding polyvinyl butyral to a phenolic coating of Keener '230, but it is respectfully submitted that Keener '230 and Kishikawa et al. do not teach, disclose or suggest applying a coating to heat treated rivets, and curing the coating on the heat treated rivets at a temperature between about 230°F and 290°F, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 8-13 are novel and inventive over Keener '230 and Kishikawa et al., and that the rejection of Claims 8-13 on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 and Kishikawa et al. should be withdrawn.

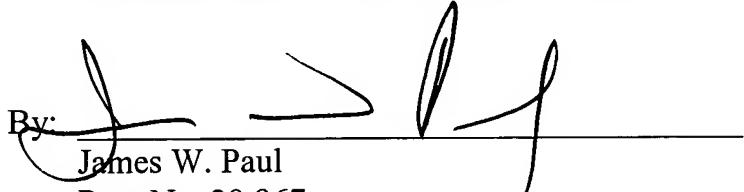
Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al., and further in view of Nonweiler et al., which was cited as teaching grit blasting with aluminum oxide. It is respectfully submitted that Keener '230, Kishikawa et al. and Nonweiler et al. do not teach, disclose or suggest applying a coating to heat treated rivets, and curing the coating on the heat treated rivets at a temperature between about 230°F and 290°F, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are novel and inventive over Keener '230, Kishikawa et al. and Nonweiler et al., and that the rejection

of Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 and Kishikawa et al. should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing remarks, examination of the application on the merits and an early favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
James W. Paul
Reg. No. 29,967

DGP/rvw

Encl.: Return Postcard

Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201